REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

Date of entry in Register:	28 August 2003
Name of applicant/court:	The District Court at Auckland
Applicant to the Labelling Body:	Not Applicable
Title of Publication:	Letter Dated 2 January 2002
Other Known Title(s):	Not Stated
Director(s):	Not Applicable
Producer(s):	Not Applicable
Publisher:	Not Applicable
Author(s):	Not Applicable
Format:	Letters
Country of Origin:	Mexico
Language(s):	English, Spanish

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Components of film originally examined: Not Applicable.

Feature: Running Time:

Trailers: Running Time:

Total Running Time:

Excision/Alteration: Not Applicable.

Reason(s) for Excision:

Not Applicable.

Classification Decision:

Objectionable.

Display Conditions:

Not Applicable.

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Descriptive Note:

Not Applicable.

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Direction to issue a label has been given on: Not Applicable.

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SUMMARY OF THE REASONS FOR DECISION:

The letter *Letter Dated 2 January 2002* is classified as:
Objectionable.

The publication is a six page letter sent from a man in Mexico to a man in New Zealand. The letter has been prepared on a computer and printed out prior to sending. It consists of text and colour photographic images which show pre-pubescent boys, who wear swimming trunks or shorts. Some photographs show a boy changing his shorts at the beach with his genitalia visible. Although some text refers to news in the writer's life, much of it concentrates on the boys photographed, how arousing the writer finds boys and his exploits in finding, observing, and photographing boys.

Some text describes sexual activity involving children, including those photographed, in a salacious and titillatory manner. The letter generally refers to pre-pubescent boys in salacious and predatory terms. The writer refers to writing the letters as sexually arousing and indicates that they are intended to be sexually arousing.

The publication tends to promote and support the exploitation of children for sexual purposes by falsely attributing adult sexual attitudes and behaviours to children, who otherwise appear to be playing innocently, and generally by encouraging the reader to be sexually aroused by children, who it presents as legitimate objects of adult sexual desire.

The letter meets criteria under s3(2)(a) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993, and is therefore deemed to be objectionable. A classification of objectionable places a limit on the right to the freedom of expression as set out in s14 of the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. However, in relation to this publication, the classification is considered to be a reasonable limit prescribed by law that can be demonstrably justified in a free and democratic society.

OFLC No: 300729